

February 1, 1983

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could possibly, if this does add anything to the state, we can take something away from one of your programs, Senator.

SENATOR WESELY: No, the Governor has already done that. I don't have any programs left. The truth of the matter is I will vote for the advancement of the bill seeing the list of individuals who are supportive. Obviously, there is a lot of support. But I also want to inform you that I think the question about cost and this would be implemented concerns me and I will be looking into it further.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I rise.....

SENATOR CLARK: (Gavel)...Could we have a little quiet, please, it is hard to hear.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I rise to support this bill and I would also like to clarify something under Section 1, Subsection (3), line 21, on page 2. It says: "Employees electing this option shall be responsible for the entire premium cost, including the state's share and the employee's share". So it would seem to me that it isn't going to cost the state anything, and perhaps that is why they show no fiscal impact. I would also like to address the fact that many people when they retire, if they are over 50 or 55 it is darn near impossible to get a company to insure them, and as a consequence when they pay these gigantic medical expenses they end up having to sell their homes and eventually going on welfare. Now by allowing these people who are at an age bracket where most insurance companies don't want to take them, we will be keeping them from having to go on welfare. We will be allowing them to retain their own homes and what we are doing is asking them to pay their own insurance premium. I think this bill has a great deal of merit and I support it. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any further discussion on the bill? If not, Senator Pappas, what do you want to do with the bill?

SENATOR PAPPAS: I move for advancement.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any further discussion on the advancement? If not, all those in favor of advancing the bill vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Record the vote.